

### DC Kurigram sentenced

**From Our Correspondent**  
KURIGRAM, Dec 5: The Sub-Judge, Ulipur, Mirza Ayub has sentenced the Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Abdul Haque to three months in jail for violating court order.  
One Enamul Haque Chand, an elected member of Kurigram Zila Shilpakala Academy, lodged a case against the Deputy Commissioner, Kurigram who had dissolved the elected committee of the academy and formed an ad-hoc committee. Enamul Haque Chand petitioned to the court for a mandatory injunction on DC's activities. On August 28, the learned Sub-Judge passed an order to transfer power to the elected body of the academy by September 3. But the Deputy Commissioner ignored the court's order.

### Housewife receives acid burn injury

**SATKHIRA, Dec 5:** A housewife received serious burn injuries when some unidentified miscreants threw acid on her body at Daulatpur in Sadar thana Saturday, reports UNB.  
The victim Madhabi Lata, 20, wife of Susanta Kumar was rushed to the Satkhira Hospital in a critical condition.  
The miscreants at dead of night entered the house of her father and threw acid through the window on the body of the sleeping Madhabi.

# Massive winter crop cultivation scheme

**From Our Correspondent**

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 5: About 1,03,395 hectares of land in Sirajganj district have been brought under various winter crop cultivation during the current season. The output target has been fixed at 2,60,150 metric tons.

According to the local office of the Agriculture Extension Department (AED), High Yielding Variety (HYV) of boro paddy will be cultivated on 27,935 hectares of land with production target of 3.20 metric tons of paddy per hectare. Local variety of paddy will be cultivated on 23,360 hectares with a target production of 1.50 metric tons per hectare. Wheat will be cultivated on about 25,000 hectares with a target of production of two metric tons per hectare. The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply 60,000 kilograms of seeds at the rate of Tk 11 per kg. potato is cultivated on 3,000 hectares of land with a target of 11 metric tons per hectare. BADC supplied 6,500 kgs of seeds at the rate of Tk 12 per kg.

Besides, 22,400 hectares of land have been brought under HYV and local varieties of mustard with production target of 1.40 metric tons per hectare. Groundnut will be cultivated on 1,600 hectares with the targeted production of 1.28 metric tons per hectare. Maize will

be cultivated on 100 hectares of land.

Meanwhile, the BADC has opened sales centres of seeds at Sirajganj sadar, Ullapara and Belkuchi thana headquarters to ease the supply system of seeds to the cultivators.

**Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds:** A scheme has been taken to bring 120,811 lakh hectares of lands under winter crops cultivation scheme in seven thanas of the district during the current season.

According to district Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources, of the total land, about 85,271 hectares will be brought under High Yield Variety (HYV) of boro paddy cultivation, 4,100 hectares under local variety of boro paddy, 2,000 hectares under potatoes, 16,500 hectares under wheat, 100 hectares under maize, 3,200 hectares under musur, 100 hectares under mashkhalai, 200 hectares under chhola, 150 hectares under moog, 50 hectares under arhar, 1,500 hectares under khesari, 300 hectares under motor (pea), 1,840 hectares under mustard, 500 hectares under Chinabadam (groundnut) and 4,200 hectares of land will be brought under vegetables cultivation in all seven thanas — Nasirnagar, Sarail, Akhaura, Kasba, Nabnagar, Ban-

hampur and Brahmanbaria sadar of the district.

According to AED, the production target has been fixed in total at about 35,84,28 metric tons in the winter crops cultivation seasons. Total cropwise target of production expected are: 27,25,47 metric tons of HYV boro paddy, 61,51 metric tons of local variety boro paddy, 22,000 metric tons of potatoes, 33,000 metric tons of wheat, 300 metric tons of maize, 2,360 metric tons musur, 670 metric tons of mashkhalai, 142 metric tons of chhola, 82,50 metric tons of moog, 2,50 metric tons of arhar, 1,095 metric tons of khesari, 215 metric tons of motor (pea), 13,223 metric tons of mustard, 640 metric tons of groundnut and 42,000 metric tons of vegetables.

Sources have said that more than 300 demonstration plots will be set up in all thanas of the district to encourage the farmers to modernised method of cultivation.

Meanwhile, the farmers have alleged that HYV-seeds and other necessary inputs are not available in the open market while a little amount of seed and inputs are sold in a few shops at high rate.

The farmers have urged the authority to ensure supply of HYV seeds, fertilizer, insecticides and other necessary inputs in time for proper cultivation.

## Liberation War: Kurigram town freed on this day The battles that cost too many lives

**From H B Khan**

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: Kurigram was one of the most fierce fighting places during the nine months struggle for independence in 1971. There were many incidents and occasions of face to face fighting between the valiant freedom-fighters and Pakistan forces in Kurigram. The "Operation Search-Light" of Pakistan Army otherwise known as "Army Crackdown" started at the zero hour on the 25th March 1971. The Pakistani Army Crackdown in Dacca was followed by attack on the university students at Rajshahi and Chittagong on the March 26, 1971. Hundreds of students were killed in Dacca and Rajshahi University halls.

One of the students of Rajshahi University (RU) at that time who survived the attack on the RU campus was Habibullah Bahar of Kurigram. He escaped to Kurigram on the night of March 25, '71, along with fellow students. The student in Kurigram gathered at 'Lechi garden', in front of the Old Post Office.

In that gathering, Habibullah Bahar, then a M. Com. student and now Assistant Professor, Rangpur Government College, was requested to narrate the story of brutal atrocity committed by the Pakistani Army at Rajshahi University campus. He narrated the story which made people of Kurigram aware of the need of the hour. They gradually organised themselves to defend and stand up against any attack by the Pakistani Army.

At the initial stage of the fighting the defenders took position on the Eastern side of Teesta bridge. Pakistan Army troops from Rangpur Cantonment took position on the Western bank of Teesta bridge. The defence position continued from March 29 until April 6, but the defenders could not hold their position in the face of heavy arms and ammunition used by the enemy. They were well equipped with modern military weapons and machine guns.

In the Teesta battle, one EPR army, Ramjan Ali, lost his life.

On April 7, 1971, the defence position was at Tograihat, in the house of Ahmed Hossain Sarker, the then President of Kurigram district Awami League.

But, the Freedom Fighters had to retreat again. Lastly they took position at Ghospara, Kurigram.

Pakistani forces in their march ahead to Kurigram killed hundreds of innocent people, dragged many valuables and broke them in pieces under gun-point. They burnt hundreds of houses to ashes out of anger and vengeance. Among those valiant sons of the soil of Kurigram who sacrificed their lives were Amjad Hossain and Joyanal Abedin.

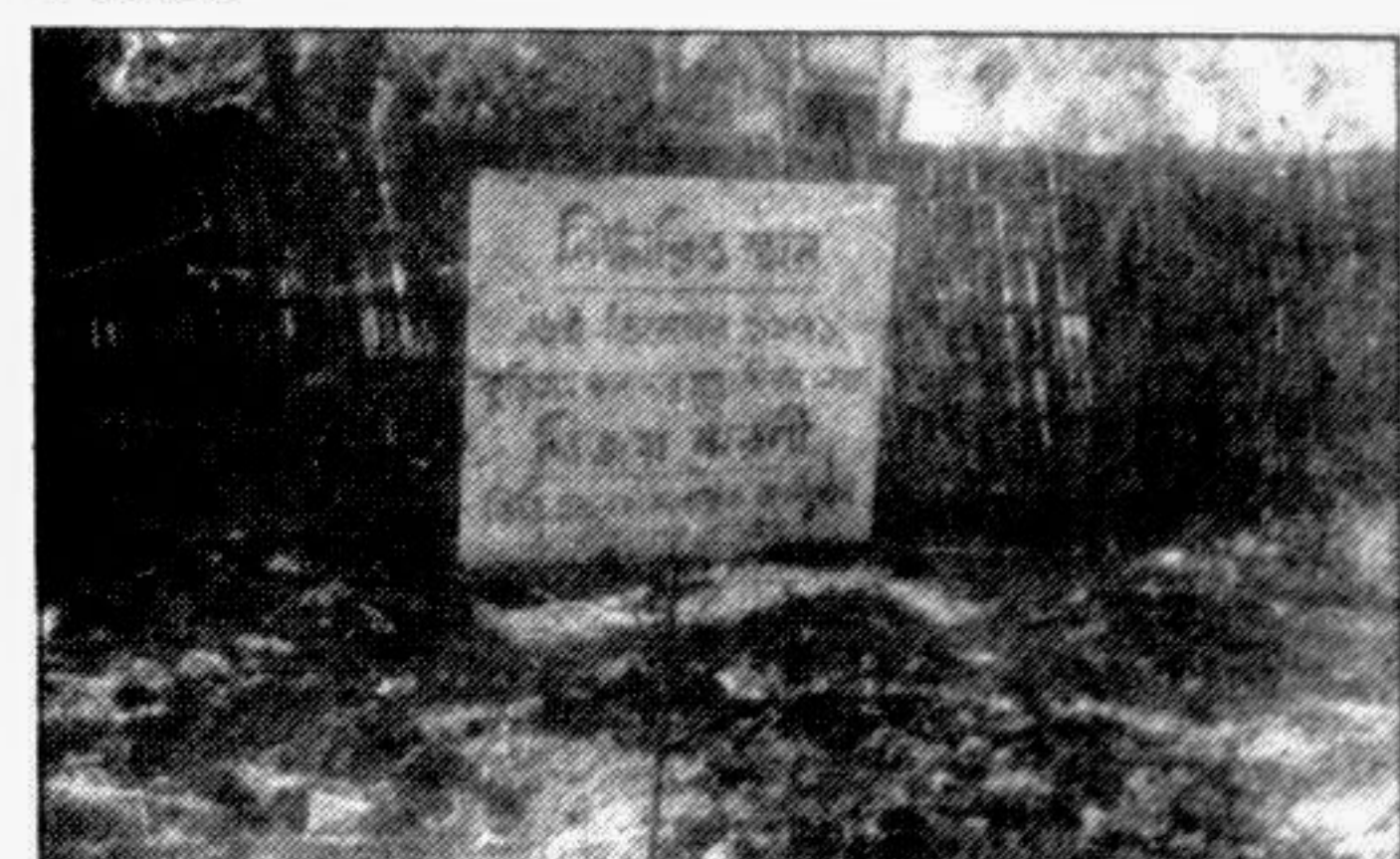
On April 7, the Pakistan Army advanced up to Kurigram Kacharibazar. They opened fire at the jail police first killing five of them. Among the martyrs were Lal Mohammad, Ansar Ali, Sajjad Ali, and Gahir Uddin. The then jailer Hedayet Ullah died after a few hours. All those martyrs were laid to eternal rest near the house of former pourashava chairman Abdus Salam. But, no sign to mark the names of those martyrs have ever been erected there.

On April 12 and 13, Freedom Fighters again united to fight the invading Pakistani army. On April 14, Pak-army took control and confirmed their position in Kurigram town. So many people were killed in the battle. Fifteen people including Majibur Muhari and Lulu Mondol were kidnapped from Ralashbari under gun-point, who were tortured and later killed. So many men, women and children of the same family were killed in Dakuapara, Krishnapur and Bakshipara.

After April 14, the Mukti Bahini Command or the Freedom Fighters went away from Kurigram to Pateswari and Nageswari in the north, and to Ulipur and Chilmari in the south.

Political leaders like Reazuddin Ahmed, Bhola Mia and others went across the Indian border to make liaison with the Indian Army and leaders of West Bengal State. The Mukti Bahini Command in Kurigram was led by Major Nowazish Uddin, Capt. Delwar Hossain, Subedar Major Arab Ali, Lt. A S M Asfakus Samad, Capt. Borhan Uddin, Subedar Altaf Hossain, Subedar Karam Ali, Professor Haidar Ali (Now Principal, Rangpur Public Cantt College), Prof. Abdul Wahab Talukder (Martyr).

On October 10, the first day of Ramadan, 1971, the



The sign board shows the site for construction of Bijoy Sarani at Stadium Road in Kurigram town. The foundation stone was laid by the former Police Super of Kurigram, Mobarak Ali Khan, a Freedom Fighter, on December 6, 1991. The site is now used as a garbage dumping corner. This photo was taken on December 2 this year only four days before the day on Dec 6 when 23 years ago Kurigram town was liberated. — Star photo

Pakistani Army conducted an operation at Hatia and Mondolharat under Ulipur thana. They showed one more example of brutal atrocity and genocide on that day. They killed as many as 764 men and women at Hatia and 21 at Mondolharat. They burnt hundreds of tin-shed and kutcha houses, looted bullocks and also kidnapped some innocent young ladies from the countryside.

The stories of atrocity and killings at Nageswari and Fulbari is similar. On the last days of November, as many as thirty six men were brought near Nageswari thana and killed by brush firing. Rahmantullah of Nageswari recalls the genocide, she witnessed.

For freedom at Bhurungamari on November 11, 1971 a fierce battle was fought. On that day, the Freedom Fighters in Cooperation with Indian Army fought desperately to regain control of Bhurungamari thana. But luck did not favour them. Seventy-four fighters who braved the front line including 69 Indian troops, headed by Major Ram Singh were killed in that battle. The Bengali Martyrs on the occasion were Shaheed Aziz of Kantalbari, and Shaheed Akbar and Abul of Mohendranagore. At the cost of their valuable lives Bhurungamari Raiganj was liberated.

The enemy side also suffered heavy losses but exact figure was not available.

Rowmari and Rajibpur thana areas were under the control of allied forces throughout the war.

At Rowmari, late president Ziaur Rahman was the Sector Commander, whose command area was up to Jamalpur and Tangail. Rowmari and Rajibpur, separated geographically by the rivers Brahmaputra and Jamuna remained free from any enemy attack all along the war.

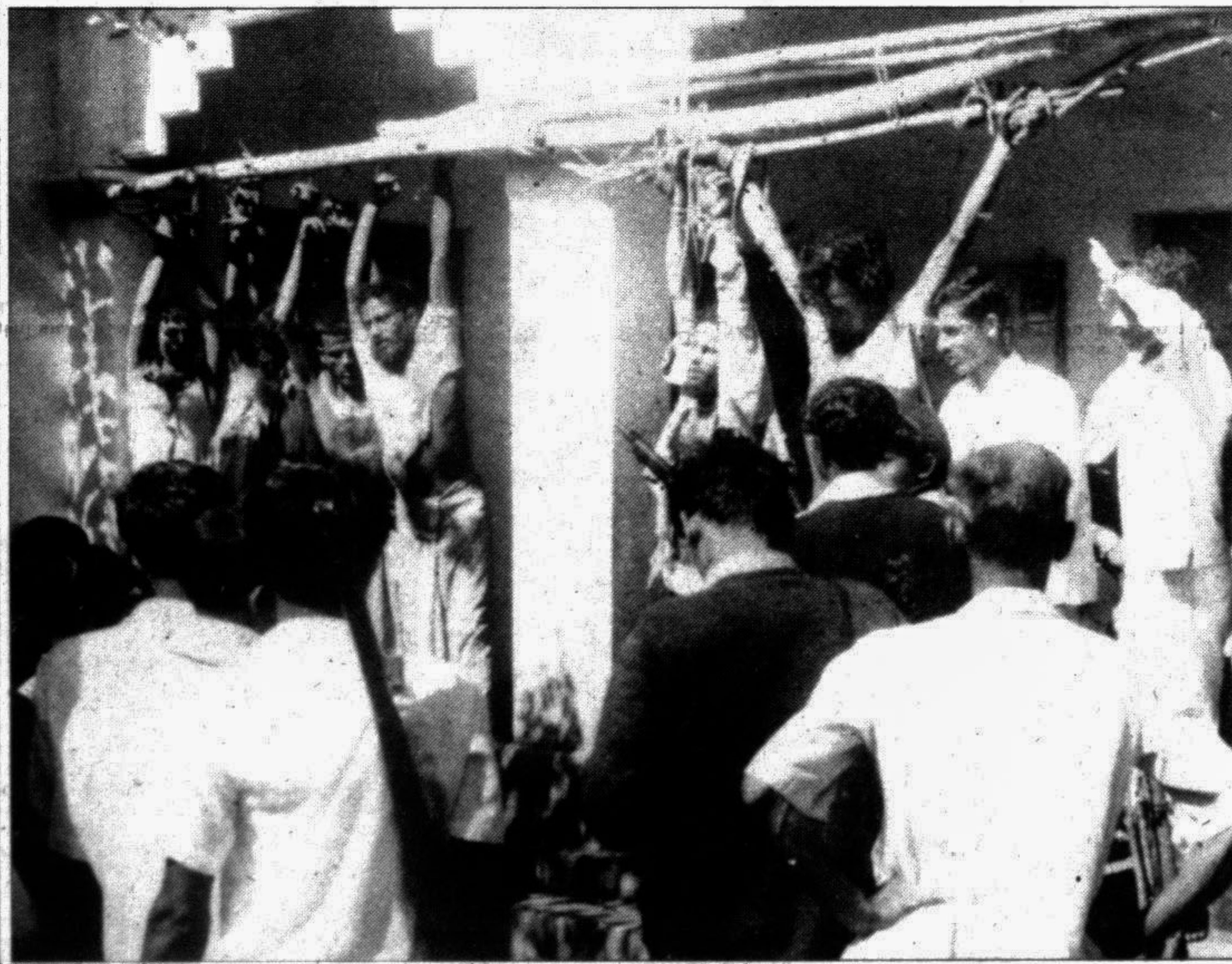
At Chilmari, there were several fightings fought under the leadership of retired Wing Commander Hamidullah Khan, now MP. Among the company commanders, were Engineer Abul Kashem Chand, now an industrialist in capital, and Showkat Ali. They had great contributions in the history of independence struggle. Chilmari was liberated after a fierce face to face battle under the leadership of Engineer Abul Kashem Chand.

Among the Freedom Fighters was Lt. Samad, who died in the battle field at Rajganj and was laid to rest at Jomoinirhat. Another martyr, Professor Abdul Wahab Talukder of Kurigram College, Sayed Monsur Ali Tunku, a chairman, of Kurigram pourashava also had great contributions.

On December 2, Nageswari and Pateswari were liberated and occupation forces were engaged in fighting from their camp at River View High School compound. Kurigram Town was finally liberated on December 6, 1971.

## Rajshahi University archive has millions of stories to tell

**From Tareq Chowdhury**



The collaborators known as Rajakars were punished for their alleged involvement with the Pakistani forces during the Liberation War. The photo, which is preserved at the RU museum, shows the collaborators being punished at Chandpur Sadar thana premises on December 9, 1971. — Photo by Monsur Ahmed Khan

**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY,** Dec 5: The only "Shahid Smriti Sangrahashala" (Martyrs Memorial Museum) of the country is situated at the Rajshahi University campus. One can learn the real history of our Liberation War visiting this museum. Every picture and items preserved in the museum are like pieces of gold. They appear so real.  
The idea of this museum was conceived as a response to the need to commemorate the participation and sacrifices of teachers, students and employees of the university during the Liberation War in 1971. The decision to establish the Shahid Smriti Sangrahashala was adopted at a meeting held on February 21 under the

chairmanship of the then vice-chancellor Prof Syed Ali Ahsan on Jan 2, 1976. Abul Fazal, the then education adviser to the government of Bangladesh formally inaugurated the museum on March 3, 1976.

It happens to be the only self-contained museum of its kind in the country. Though originally conceived as a local Liberation War memory collection centre, the relics, photographs and materials gathered here now really tell the story of war.

The rare photographs trace the very genesis of the freedom movement since the Language Movement of 1952. The museum houses some very

rare photographs of the popular political movement of resistance in 1967, 1969 and most significant of all, the final phase of the Liberation War.

The archive contains rare diaries of some of the martyred intellectuals like Munier Chowdhury, Mofazzal Haider Serajuddin Hossain, the famous Liberation poster by Quamrul Hasan, the first few issues of the war-front bulletin "Jai Bangla", the facsimile copy of the document of surrender. Some unknown graves of martyrs are also there near the museum.

It also houses some fine specimens of paintings inspired by the Liberation War by some of the country's well-

known painters like Aminul Islam, Quayyum Chowdhury, Rashid Chowdhury, Debdas Chakravorty, Mostafa Monwar, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Mostafa Aziz.

There is a small library which contains some hundreds of books, booklets and pamphlets which can provide information on the Liberation War. One can use the library for research work as well.

The museum is usually open from 8:00 am to 2 pm every day. Monsur Ahmed Khan, curator of the museum, regretted that due to lack of proper preservation system some of the relics were damaged. There is no air-conditioning system.

### 1438 certificate cases filed to recover bank loans in Satkhira

**From Our Correspondent**  
SATKHIRA, Dec 5: One thousand 438 certificate cases for the recovery of bank loans worth Taka four crore 99 lakh have been filed by the four commercial banks in the district.

According to bank sources, Bangladesh Krishi Bank has filed 956 cases for the recovery of Taka 4 crore 42 lakh. Janata Bank has filed 47 cases for Taka 7 lakh 14 thousand. Sonali Bank filed 382 cases for Taka 46 lakh 14 thousand and Agrani Bank 3 cases for Taka 3 lakh 72 thousand.

Details about the disbursed loans and their recovery after the cases could not be gathered till writing of this report.

### Installation ceremony of RU Leo club held

**From RU Correspondent**  
RAJSHAHI, Dec 5: The 7th installation ceremony of Leo Club of Rajshahi University was held at the Chemistry gallery recently.

Leo Kurshed Alam Nadim presided over the function while regional chairman Ln S A Q M Harun was present as chief guest. Prof Aminul Haq Beg, Ln Muhammad Ali Kamal, district president of Leo District 5th Leo A K M Kamrul Hesan Kayser, Leo Allama Kamal were among others who addressed the function.

### Passenger bus hits truck, coach driver dies

**FARIDPUR, Dec 5:** One person was killed and five others were injured seriously when a Kushbia bound passenger coach from Dhaka met an accident at Karimpur, eight miles from here on Dhaka-Khulna highway, reports BSS.

According to Faridpur general hospital source the passenger coach which left Dhaka in the night en route to Kushbia via Faridpur hit a truck standing amidst thick fog.

The driver of the coach died on the spot. Four of the five injured are in critical condition in coma.

### In Faridpur Development projects worth Tk 26 crore implemented

**From Our Correspondent**  
FARIDPUR, Dec 5: Twenty six development projects at a cost of Taka 26 crore were completed in the district during this fiscal. The projects include construction and reconstruction of hospital, roads, bridges, public building and primary school.

Of these projects a 250-bed hospital at a cost of Tk 10 crore 9 lakh at Harokandi in the outskirts of the town, a thana building at a cost of Tk 99 lakh at Madbukhali, DSB office at a cost of Taka 52 lakh court inspector's quarters at a cost of Taka 17 lakh and Registrar's office-cum-record room at a cost of Taka one crore 94 lakh were constructed.

During the same fiscal seven projects at a cost of Taka 11 crore 25 lakh 72 thousand were completed implemented by LGED. Of these projects 6.1 kilometre long road at a cost of Taka 34 lakh and 17 thousand, 15 bridges at a cost of Taka two crore 16 lakh 30 thousand, tree plantation on either side of 37.5 kilometre long road at a cost of Taka 64 thousand and 122, reconstruction of 109 government, primary school at a cost of Taka 43 lakh 25 thousand and 110, repair works of eight primary schools at a cost of Taka six lakh 64 thousand and 164 were executed.

### 10 lathials held in Barisal

**BARISAL, Dec 5:** Police arrested 10 alleged lathials from Bishakandi Char in Banaripara thana Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Quddus, Siddique Rahman, Mubarak Hossain, Zakir Ahmed, Abdur Rashid, Abdul Jalil, Anwar Hossain, Sultan Hawlader, Babul Hawlader and Abdul Mannan were nabbed as they attempted to harvest paddy from some body else's land.

The arrested have long been wanted in various criminal cases, police said.

### 'Stay away from politics'

**From Our Correspondent**  
MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 5:

"The death news of a student like my son usually never reach prominent political leaders, only the bereaved mothers of the deceased and other members of family have to bear the pain. You must abstain from any clash among yourselves."

This was stated in an exceptional meeting at Rajnagar Degree College recently, where the speaker, an unlettered father, who lost his son recently narrated sad stories. The auditorium was packed with students from different political bodies. Speech of the speaker was full of sorrow.

It is learnt that one Batir Miah, 19, a 2nd year BA (Pass) student of the Rajnagar Degree College died of heart attack on November 25 this year. He was also a leader of Chhatra League (S.P). After his death, the college authority arranged a condolence meeting participated by supporters from all parties. A condolence message, signed by the Principal was sent to Satir Miah, father of the de-

### Guest birds start arriving in Moulvibazar

**From Our Correspondent**

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 5: Guest birds have started crowding the haors, beels and water bodies of the district.

According to the experts, with the advent of winter, different types of birds locally known as *dighari, puggar, ka lighari, sarails, balihash, pankauri, kauria, platinum, rad-danga, and kaira* fly into Bangladesh every year from many countries especially from Siberia to escape the biting cold.

About 275 species of such winter birds usually through different water bodies of Moulvibazar sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Baralekha, Kamalgonj and Srimongal thanas.

### Contraband worth Tk 2.57 lakh seized

**BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 5:** Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 2.57 lakh in two separate raids here, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, the jawans raided a place near Mantala Railway Station on November 24 and recovered the contrabands including high quality cloths and steel plates worth over Tk 1.52 lakh.

In another drive in Nimitla bus stand they seized Indian lock and key and spare parts worth Tk 1.05 lakh.

### Road mishap claims one in Gaibandha

**From Our Correspondent**

GAIBANDHA, Dec 5: One person was killed when a Bogra bound microbus hit him on Rangpur-Bogra highway on Saturday.

The victim identified as Khokama, 40, an inhabitant of Bogailunder village of Gobindaganj thana. He was going to thana headquarters from his home riding on a bicycle. The bus hit him from behind and fled. He was admitted to Gobindaganj hospital in a critical condition where the attending doctors declared him dead.

### Contraband worth Tk 1.97 lakh seized in Satkhira

**SATKHIRA, Dec 5:** Bangladesh Rifles seized smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 1.97 lakh from different border areas of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a secret information, the jawans raided different points and recovered the contrabands including phen sidyl syrup, saree, woolen clothes, bicycle, tooth paste, fruits, salt and sugar.

The seized goods were deposited with the local customs office.

### A Freedom Fighters fate

**From Our Correspondent**

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: He could not tolerate the pains of poverty any more. At last he had no alternative but to choose rickshaw pulling to earn bread.

Nurul Haque, 52, a Freedom Fighter of Puratan Hospital Road, Kurigram served as a brave warrior in 1965 war in Mughalhat under Lalmonirhat district. Later he joined the then Bengal Regiment under Pakistan Army. When the liberation war began, he joined the Freedom Fighters and fought against the Pak army in Bhurungamari of Kurigram district in Sector No 6.

After the liberation he looked for a job but all his hopes and aspirations were turned down.

Finding no other alternative he has been pulling rickshaws in Kurigram town fighting with the realities of life.

